

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) A system including an imaging means having pixels arranged in a two-dimensional matrix, comprising:

pixel information addition means for combining pixel information for a number of said pixels and selectively extracting the combined pixel information,

wherein a frame rate of the imaging means is variable and dependent on the number of said pixels,

wherein the system is a car-mounted imaging apparatus,

~~The system of claim 8,~~ the system further comprising:

a car driving assistance apparatus for:

rendering an image in front of a car,

based on the image, determining an existence/absence of an obstacle in front of the car, and

executing control to selectively response to the obstacle,

wherein the image is acquired by the car-mounted imaging apparatus, and

wherein, if an obstacle is detected, the frame rate is increased.

10. (Currently Amended) A system including an imaging means having pixels arranged in a two-dimensional matrix, comprising:

pixel information addition means for combining pixel information for a number of

said pixels and selectively extracting the combined pixel information,

wherein a frame rate of the imaging means is variable and dependent on the number of said pixels,

wherein the system is a car-mounted imaging apparatus,

~~The system of claim 8,~~ the system further comprising:

a car driving assistance apparatus for:

imaging an image inside a cabin of a car,

based on the image, determining at least one of whether a driver is a registered driver, whether a person exists in a assistant driver's seat, and whether a person exists in rear seats, and

based on the determining, executing control for at least one of burglarproofing of the car, inhibiting expansion of an air bag of the assistant driver's seat, and an effective operation of an air conditioner,

wherein the image is acquired by the car-mounted imaging apparatus.

11. - 12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) A system including an imaging means having pixels arranged in a two-dimensional matrix, comprising:

pixel information addition means for combining pixel information for a number of said pixels and selectively extracting the combined pixel information,

wherein a frame rate of the imaging means is variable and dependent on the number of said pixels,

the system further comprising area designation means for designating at least one area in the imaging means, wherein the number of said pixels are located in the at least one area,

wherein the system is a car-mounted imaging apparatus,

~~The system of claim 12,~~ the system further comprising:

a car driving assistance apparatus for:

rendering an image in front of a car,

based on the image, determining an existence/absence of an obstacle in front of the car, and

executing control to selectively response to the obstacle,

wherein the image is acquired by the car-mounted imaging apparatus, and

wherein the area designation means designates the area in the imaging means associated with a speed of the car.

14. (Currently Amended) A system including an imaging means having pixels arranged in a two-dimensional matrix, comprising:

pixel information addition means for combining pixel information for a number of said pixels and selectively extracting the combined pixel information,

wherein a frame rate of the imaging means is variable and dependent on the number of said pixels,

the system further comprising area designation means for designating at least one area in the imaging means, wherein the number of said pixels are located in the at least one area,

wherein the system is a car-mounted imaging apparatus.

~~The system of claim 12,~~ the system further comprising:

a car driving assistance apparatus for:

imaging an image inside a cabin of a car,

based on the image, determining at least one of whether a driver is a registered driver, whether a person exists in a assistant driver's seat, and whether a person exists in rear seats, and

based on the determining, executing control for at least one of burglarproofing of the car, inhibiting expansion of an air bag of the assistant driver's seat, and an effective operation of an air conditioner,

wherein the image is acquired by the car-mounted imaging apparatus.